

Serial No.: 10/088,516
Atty. Docket No.: P67761US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (New) A method for treating ambient air, comprising:

drawing in or circulating the air through a permeable container in which is placed a treating agent that includes crystals of a mineral salt and fragmented elements of plant origin selected from the group consisting of clove, thyme and both clove and thyme;

mechanically filtering said air while said treating agent concurrently acts as a bactericide, fungicide, virucide and insecticide; and

distributing said treating agent with substantial uniformity inside said container so as to prevent the development of microorganisms on the container itself.

12. (New) The method of claim ¹¹~~1~~, wherein said crystals of mineral salt and said fragmented elements of plant origin are mixed.

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13. (New) The method of claim ~~X~~¹¹, wherein said crystals of mineral salt and said fragmented elements of plant origin are in separate layers.

14. (New) The method of claim ~~X~~¹¹, wherein the mineral salt is sodium chloride.

15. (New) A permeable device for treating ambient air by drawing in or circulating the air through said device, comprising:
two microperforated sheets for mechanical filtration of the air; and

a layer of bactericidal, fungicidal, virucidal, and insecticidal treating agent including crystals of mineral salt and fragmented elements of plant origin selected from the group consisting of clove, thyme and both clove and thyme, said layer being distributed with substantial uniformity between said sheets so as to prevent the development of microorganisms on surfaces of said device.

16. (New) The device of claim 15, wherein the container includes a case, a net and a double-walled flexible container.

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17. (New) The device of claim 15, further comprising a component for circulating air through the container by ventilation.

18. (New) The device of claim 15, wherein said crystals of mineral salt and said fragmented elements of plant origin are mixed.

19. (New) The device of claim 15, wherein said crystals of mineral salt and said fragmented elements of plant origin are in separate layers.

20. (New) The device of claim 15, further comprising at least one of the following successive treating agents:

- a layer of foam for a first mechanical filtration;
- a first fine mechanical filter;
- a compartment for treatment of air by radiation; and
- a layer of active charcoal.

21. (New) The device of claim 15, wherein said layer of bactericidal, fungicidal, virucidal, and insecticidal treating agent includes the following successive treating agents:

- a layer of foam for a first mechanical filtration;

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a layer of said mineral salt crystals and fragmented elements of plant origin selected from the group consisting of clove, thyme and both clove and thyme adjacent said foam layer;
a first fine mechanical filter adjacent said layer of mineral salt crystals and fragmented plant elements;
a compartment for treatment of air by radiation adjacent said first fine mechanical filter;
a second fine mechanical filter adjacent said compartment; and
a layer of active charcoal adjacent said second fine mechanical filter.

22. (New) The device of claim 15 as implemented with a calorie-exchanging device selected from the group of devices consisting of air conditioners, heating appliances, refrigerating appliances, and ventilation and air-recycling appliances.

23. (New) The device of claim 15 as implemented with an organic waste container selected from the group of containers consisting of household waste sacks, landfill pits for fermentable material, and transformation containers for organic waste.

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24. (New) A method for treating ambient air using a container having a plurality of layers, comprising the steps in the following order of:

drawing in or circulating the air into said container through a layer of foam for a first mechanical filtration;

drawing in or circulating the air through a treating agent layer of mineral salt crystals and fragmented plant elements selected from the group consisting of clove, thyme and both clove and thyme adjacent said foam layer, said treating agent layer concurrently acting as a bactericide, fungicide, virucide and insecticide and being distributed substantially uniformly across said container so as to prevent the development of microorganisms on the container itself;

drawing in or circulating the air through a first fine mechanical filter adjacent said layer of mineral salt crystals and fragmented plant elements; and

drawing in or circulating the air through a compartment for treatment of air by radiation adjacent said first fine mechanical filter.

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25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising after the step of drawing in or circulating the air through said compartment, the steps in the following order of:

drawing in or circulating the air through a second fine mechanical filter adjacent said compartment; and

drawing in or circulating the air through a layer of toxic gas-absorbing material adjacent said second fine mechanical filter to exit said container.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said layer of toxic gas-absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of active charcoal, natural wool and rare-earth metals.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said step of drawing in or circulating the air through a treating agent layer includes:

drawing in or circulating the air through a layer of mineral salt crystals;

drawing in or circulating the air through a second fine mechanical filter adjacent said layer of mineral salt crystals; and

drawing in or circulating the air through a layer of fragmented plant elements selected from the group consisting of

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clove, thyme and both clove and thyme adjacent said second fine mechanical filter.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising after the step of drawing in or circulating the air through said compartment, the steps in the following order of:

drawing in or circulating the air through a third fine mechanical filter adjacent said compartment; and

drawing in or circulating the air through a layer of toxic gas-absorbing material adjacent said third fine mechanical filter to exit said container.